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TO: TEHRAN INFO DIRECTOR.

RYBAT

EYES ONLY  FROM  VIETNAM

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM  VIETNAM  
TO AMBASSADOR HELMS.

"AMBASSADOR MARTIN HAS ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU THE FOLLOWING  MEMORANDUM ON BASIS OF WHICH AMBASSADOR MARTIN HOPES THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO EXERT SOME DISCREET INFLUENCE IN ENSURING THAT THE IRANIAN DELEGATION IS STAFFED ADEQUATELY AT THE TOP LEVEL TO BEGIN WITH AND THAT IT WOULD ALSO BE STRENGTHENED IN THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF ITS DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION. AT PRESENT THE IRANIANS ARE A VERY POOR FOURTH WITH THE OTHER THREE NATIONS (HUNGARY, INDONESIA, POLAND) HAVING FIELDED VERY ABLE SENIOR PERSONNEL. OUR INTEREST IS OF COURSE NOT SO MUCH IN THE INDIVIDUALS THE IRANIANS DECIDE TO SEND HERE BUT IN THE FACT THAT AT PRESENT, AND PARTICULARLY NOTICEABLE SINCE THE DEPARTURE OF SADRY, ONE TWO COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS SIMPLY OUTCLASS THE INDONESIANS WHILE THE IRANIANS AT THE MOMENT JUST DON'T COUNT. TEXT OF MEMORANDUM FOLLOWS:

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT FOR AMBASSADOR ASSAD SADRY  
REF: TEHRAN 1028 (STATE)

1. THE DEPARTURE OF AMBASSADOR ASSAD SADRY HAS BROUGHT INTO SHARP FOCUS THE RELATIVE WEAKNESS OF THE IRANIAN DELEGATION AS COMPARED TO THE OTHER THREE DELEGATIONS ON THE ICCS. SADRY'S EXPERIENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND DRIVE ALONG WITH HIS ABILITY TO GET THE BEST OUT OF HIS SMALL, GENERALLY YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED STAFF, KEPT THIS WEAKNESS FROM BECOMING EVIDENT EARLIER. THE IRANIAN DELEGATION, BECAUSE OF SADRY'S ASTERY OF

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CONFERENCE DIPLOMACY, LEADERSHIP AND FLEXIBILITY, EXERTED CONSTANT PRESSURE ON THE COMMUNIST MEMBERS OF ICCS TO CARRY OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT. IN SO DOING, EVIDENCE OF POLISH AND HUNGARIAN INSINCERITY WAS RECORDED AND EXPOSED IN THE PLENARY SESSIONS, CAUSING THEM EMBARRASSMENT. HOWEVER, HIS DEPARTURE HAS LEFT THE IRANIAN DELEGATION WITHOUT EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP.

2. THE REFERENCED CABLE INDICATES THAT THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING REPLACING SADRY WITH THE IR PRESENT AMBASSADOR TO BANGKOK WHO IS ALSO ACCREDITED TO SAIGON. IF HE WOULD BE POSTED TO SAIGON TO WORK FULL TIME ON THE ICCS THIS WOULD BE A FINE SOLUTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF HE WOULD RETAIN HIS PRESENT FUNCTIONS AND ALSO ASSUME THE ICCS ACCREDITATION, THIS WOULD LEAD TO PROBLEMS AS THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO ACCEPT ACCREDITATION FOR ONE AND THE SAME PERSON AS AMBASSADOR TO THEIR GOVERNMENT AND CONCURRENTLY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ICCS, IN WHICH POSITION HE WOULD HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE PRG. THE EMBASSY INFORMALLY INDICATED THIS VIETNAMESE CONCERN TO THE IRANIAN DELEGATION; HOWEVER, MINISTER KHAZENI SENT WORD BACK THAT HE COULD NOT BRING THIS MATTER TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION BECAUSE IT WOULD BE PRESUMPTUOUS OF HIM TO COMMENT ON THE SUITABILITY OF ANOTHER OFFICER FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT.

3. THE PRESENT ACTING HEAD OF THE DELEGATION, MINISTER M. KHAZENI MOGGADAM, IS NOT CAPABLE OF HANDLING THIS ASSIGNMENT. HIS LACK OF EXPERIENCE AT CONFERENCE DIPLOMACY, RETIRING BUREAUCRATIC TEMPERAMENT AND INABILITY TO GET THE MOST OUT OF HIS STAFF RESULT IN VERY POOR PERFORMANCE. HE IS FURTHER HANDICAPPED BY HIS POOR ENGLISH WHICH IS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE ICCS AND WHICH THE OTHER AMBASSADORS ON THE COMMISSION ALL SPEAK. A FURTHER COMPLICATION LIMITING KHAZENI'S CAPABILITY TO UNITE AND LEAD THE IRANIAN DELEGATION SEEMS FROM A FEUD WHICH DEVELOPED BETWEEN HIM AND

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AMBASSADOR SADRY. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED RUMORS AND ALLEGATIONS FROM BOTH SIDES ACCUSING THE OTHER PARTY OF PERSONAL CORRUPTION. THE TRUTH IN THESE ALLEGATIONS IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR OUR EMBASSY TO JUDGE, BUT AS A CONSEQUENCE THE DIPLOMATIC DELEGATION RECENTLY LOST SEVERAL STAFF MEMBERS, AND THE REMAINING TWO JUNIOR OFFICERS' ONLY INTEREST NOW IS TO STAY CLEAR OF THE FIGHT AND FIND OTHER ASSIGNMENTS.

4. ONE INDICATOR AS TO THE CAPABILITY OF THE IRANIAN DIPLOMATIC DELEGATION TO COMPETE WITH THE OTHERS CAN BE SEEN IN THE COMPARATIVE SIZE OF THEIR DIPLOMATIC STAFFS. THE IRANSIANS NOW HAVE THREE DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS, THE INDONESIANS SEVEN, THE POLES THIRTEEN, AND THE HUNGARIANS SIXTEEN. NUMBERS TELL ONLY A PART OF THE STORY. THE COMMUNISTS NOT ONLY HAVE MUCH LARGER STAFFS BUT THEY HAVE MANY SENIOR OFFICERS WHO HAVE HAD MUCH GREATER EXPERIENCE THAN THE TWO JUNIOR OFFICERS (A THIRD SECRETARY AND A JUNIOR ATTACHE) ON THE IRANIAN DELEGATION. THE WEAKNESS OF THE IRANIAN DIPLOMATIC STAFF IS ATTRIBUTED BY SADRY TO THE FACT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS UNWILLING TO GIVE HIM THE SUPPORT HE NEEDED, AND WHAT LITTLE HE RECEIVED CAME BECAUSE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S BACKING. SADRY ALSO INDICATED THAT UNLESS THE SHAH PERSONALLY TOOK AN INTEREST IN FINDING A COMPETENT REPLACEMENT, THE JOB WOULD GO BEGGING. IF THE SHAH ORDERS AN OFFICIAL TO TAKE A POST, HE CAN'T REFUSE, BUT NO ONE ELSE HAS THE AUTHORITY TO FORCE SOMEONE TO TAKE AN UNDESIRABLE ASSIGNMENT. NO COMPETENT OFFICIAL HAS SHOWN ANY INTEREST IN BEING POSTED TO THE ICCS."

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